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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 661

By Haun

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. James "Mickey"  
Hatcher upon being named Tennessee  
Elementary School Principal of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their professional efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Dr. James "Mickey" Hatcher, who, in his seventh year as principal of Unicoi Elementary School, has earned the title of Tennessee Elementary School Principal of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hatcher was honored during the Tennessee Principals and Supervisors Study Council Annual Conference in Nashville, which is sponsored by the Tennessee Department of Education. He was presented a check for \$1,000 to be used at his discretion for the benefit of Unicoi Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Elizabeth Vaughn-Meely, Director of the Tennessee Academy of School Leaders was quoted as saying: "These individuals are exemplary school leaders. Each winner demonstrates a relentless pursuit of excellence in student learning by successfully implementing programs designed specifically for their schools. Dr. Hatcher has involved staff, parents, and

community members in the decision-making process...As is quite obvious, we have outstanding leadership in Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher has earned the admiration of his students, teachers, and peers alike as a result of his dedication to his students' well-being, both academically and in fulfilling their personal growth toward responsible adulthood; Dr. Ron Wilcox, Director of Schools of Unicoi County, praised Dr. Hatcher for his hard work, creativity and innovation, which resulted in his selection for this honor from among nearly 700 elementary school principals in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher epitomizes the spirit and commitment that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher acquired his vast array of skills from a variety of assignments during his career. After a short time as a corrective therapist in Virginia at a Veterans Administration facility, he returned to Erwin and, in 1973, began teaching drafting at Unicoi County High School Vocational School; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hatcher next accepted a Special Education resource position at Martin Chapel Elementary School, first teaching 5th through 8th graders, and eventually teaching all subjects to 6th through 8th graders. He subsequently served as supervising principal of the school until its closure in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher next served astutely as curriculum director for the entire school system and revamped the 7th grade through high school curriculum in only one year. He worked at the central office for one-half of the day and taught general science and in-school suspension at Unicoi County High School during the remaining half-day; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hatcher was active in coaching sports during much of his career; while holding a teaching principalship at Temple Hill Elementary, he taught 39 students in a combined 7th/8th grade class while also coaching basketball at Unicoi County High School; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher served as assistant principal during the first years of the County's middle school before becoming the principal of Unicoi County Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Dr. Hatcher ran for and was elected to a seat on the Unicoi County Commission, where he seeks "to help shape policy and obtain resources for the expansion and promotion of education"; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher, as a County Commissioner, has stated that "Educating the community about its role in education of children and formulating the policies to get this done must begin at the local level. Finding sources of revenue and resources for adequate funding of programs that are researched-based and of a high priority for our children are goals to which I aspire within this office"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hatcher currently serves with distinction as Chairman of the Principals' Study Council for the area, as a board member of the Tennessee Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals, and as a facilitator/evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and

WHEREAS, Mickey Hatcher is also treasurer of the local Ruritan Club, and a committed member of Central Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. James "Mickey" Hatcher for his dedication to Unicoi County and to the state of Tennessee and our citizens, especially our children; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. James "Mickey" Hatcher upon being named Tennessee Elementary School Principal of the Year, thank him for his unstinting service to the children of Unicoi County and the state of Tennessee and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.